

# Post #5 Newsletter

February 2025

Inspirational Quote for the Month:

**" Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons."**

George S. Patton Jr.

## **Membership Meeting:**

First Thursday of the month  
at 7pm

## **Auxiliary Meeting:**

Second Thursday of the  
month at 6:30pm

## **Sons of the American Legion Meeting:**

First Monday of the month  
at 6:30pm

## **Legionnaire/SAL/ Auxiliary Meeting:**

First Thursday of the  
month at 6:00pm

## **House Committee Meeting:**

Third Monday of the  
month at 6:00pm

**AMERICAN  
LEGION**



## Commander's Corner

Hello fellow Veterans of Post 5, this is our second newsletter of the year; hope you are doing well and staying warm. The groundhog will be out on Saturday so hopefully winter will soon be over but in the meantime you're welcome to come by the Legion Post and warm up and enjoy Lunch Monday-Friday 11:30-1:30 or Friday night for dinner from 5-7. Would love to see some new faces at our monthly Legion member meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. Our first newsletter last month was enjoyed by a few members that informed me that they like seeing it back if you have anything you would like to see added feel free to let me know. In closing, I would like to wish everyone a safe month and warmer weather is on its way.

Jay Mills

Post 5 Commander

# Tuesday Morning Coffee

Brattleboro American Legion Vets' Coffee Group:

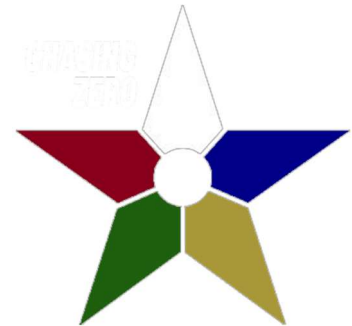
Sometime in 2018, John Hagan, then among the leadership of Post 5 American Legion, discussed with me the idea for a weekly Veterans' Coffee Group at The Brattleboro Legion. He proposed that the Legion would provide the space and coffee, and that we could chip in to provide the donuts. We decided to give it a try, and starting with the two of us and word of mouth, our group over several months first outgrew a small meeting room, then a larger dining room and finally settled in at the Legion's largest meeting space to accommodate a weekly crowd of between 30 and 40 veterans.

We meet at 9am every Tuesday at the Legion for one hour. We do everything very democratically, agreeing on who outside of our group can be invited to speak at our gathering and how to organize the actual meeting. We have no set agenda for each meeting, and after our Pledge of Allegiance, we open the floor to announcements and see where the discussion goes from there. That is one of the interesting and fun aspects of the weekly meeting - one never knows what the topic or topics of the day will be. There is no pressure for anyone to speak at the meeting, and many are happy to listen to the discussion without speaking. It is a tribute to the respect that each veteran has for his peers that the conversation remains civil no matter how much one may disagree with another's opinion. It is clear that this weekly gathering is enjoyable for the participants, as much information is shared, and many smiles are observed among the participants.

For many veterans, this gathering has become a weekly destination, and I think, has helped to reduce the inevitable isolation, which is so often the case in rural areas, particularly during the winter months. We are always happy to welcome new veterans and are particularly happy during those meetings when women veterans are in attendance.

For the working age veterans in the tri-state area whose schedule does not allow them to come to the Tuesday morning meeting, there is a monthly Veterans' Pizza Night at 7pm at the Legion on the last Thursday of each month. All veterans and their families are welcome.

Bob Tortolani for the Tuesday Veterans' Coffee Group



CHASING ZERO

## Synergy Anyone?

In an effort to help improve coordination and communication throughout our Post #5 Family, a monthly meeting has been established to include any Legionnaires, Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion members that would like to attend. Meeting fatigue is a thing and we understand that. However, we believe the value of sitting down collectively and sharing our thoughts, challenges and ideas will only make us stronger and better adept in moving our Post forward. A basic agenda has been prepared but the important consideration here is that all voices will be heard. Complaints must be left in the parking lot but constructive conversation is vital!

Please join us this upcoming February 6<sup>th</sup> for our inaugural meeting at 6pm in the Post Banquet Center.

## The Auxiliary

January is typically a quiet month for the Auxiliary at the Unit level. However, we were in attendance at the Department Mid-winter conference in Colchester and enjoyed an educational session. There was information from each district on the many programs being run statewide in support of our Veterans, which will be shared with members at the next meeting. Our Brattleboro Unit was mentioned for the many contributions we made in 2024. It was also good to hear what activities are going on at different Legion Posts that might be shared here at our Post - more to follow on that!

We are hosting Friday night dinner on the 31st and will be serving ham with scalloped potatoes, vegetables and dessert. Hope to see a good turnout!

A reminder that our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. and all Unit members are invited to attend and learn more about our mission and programs.

In the spirit of service, not self,

Lori Nelson

President, Unit #5



## Service Officer Assistance

**Do you have questions about service related injuries or claims? Please contact the number below to speak with a representative that can answer your questions or help you with a claim.**

- **American Legion Veteran Service Officer (Office at White River Junction) - (802) 296-5166**

## **Hail and Farewell**

Help us recognize our Vets! Do you have a nephew leaving for boot camp? Did your Son or Daughter just get back from a deployment? Do you know someone that is retiring from the Military?

We want to recognize any Veteran that has achieved a key milestone in their career. Reach out to any member of your Post #5 leadership team so you can be put in contact with our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander to get all of the details. Our "Hail and Farewell" program will take place the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month in conjunction with the Sons of the American Legion Dinner. Your Veteran will enjoy a free meal on us and we will recognize their accomplishment accordingly! We understand some folks don't desire attention so we will respect their wishes if that is the case. We have a Post full of people that would appreciate the opportunity to shake their hand and say "Thank you"! Note: You must coordinate through the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander in advance...

## **Volunteers Needed!!**

If you'd like to volunteer to help out on a committee, kitchen, activity or with any ideas, please contact Mike Tessier or Meaghan Fagley or leave a note at the office with your contact info. Additionally, we are currently looking to fill multiple officer positions for Post #5 so please reach out to any current officer to inquire about openings and what would be a good fit. Many hands make for light work!

## **Current List of Upcoming Events:**

February:

- 2/7 – Friday Night Fish Fry with the Inlawski Brothers!
- 2/9 – Super Bowl Sunday funday pot luck – bring an app to share!
- 2/14 – Prime Rib Valentine's Day specials (lunch and dinner). Pre-orders are required
- 2/17 – Winter Carnival family BINGO
- 2/21 – Bea's Pizza
- 2/22 – 90s/Y2K party with DJ Chase
- 2/28 – SAL chicken dinner

March:

- 3/7 – Friday Night Fish Fry with the Inlawski Brothers!
- 3/14 – All day corned beef dinner
- 3/21 – Bea's Pizza
- 3/28 – SAL chicken dinner

# The PACT Act

## What's the PACT Act and how will it affect my VA benefits and care?

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

### The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

Reference: <https://www.va.gov/resources>

## Reader's Roost Book of the Month!

Our Book of the Month is the New York Times Bestseller, "About Face, the Odyssey of an American Warrior". *About Face* is a memoir by Colonel David Hackworth, detailing his experiences in the U.S. Army over a career that spanned several decades. The book covers his time in combat, starting with his service in the Korean War, through his role in the Vietnam War, and up until his departure from the military in the 1970s. Hackworth provides a candid and often critical account of military leadership, the bureaucracy of the Armed Forces, and the challenges soldiers face during wartime. The book highlights Hackworth's evolution from a young, idealistic officer to a seasoned, outspoken critic of military inefficiency and corruption. *About Face* is both a personal story and a critique of the military establishment, offering insights into the realities of warfare and the complexities of command. Would you believe he enlisted in the Army at the age of 15?

